



Newsletter

Virtue of the Month: *Courage*

PAGE ITEMS

Halloween

Grade Four & Five

Grade Eight & Nine

Understanding Facebook
by Ken MacDougall

Community Information

NOTE: As other staff have updates to provide, they will be added to the next newsletter.

News & Updates:

Nov 9 – High School Block Turn Over

Nov 10 – Report Card Day
Remembrance Day Service @ 11:00 AM

Nov 11 – No School

Nov 29 – Early Dismissal 2:15 PM Due to Staff Meeting

GYM SCHEDULE

Time/Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3:30-4:30	Basketball Practice	Basketball Practice	Basketball Practice	Basketball Practice	Kids Soccer
4:30-6:00	Kids Gym & Badminton	Kids Kickball	Kids Gym & Badminton	Kids Dodgeball	Archery 14 & up
7:00-9:00	Volley-ball 15 & up	Basketball	Volley-ball 18 & up/ Staff	Floor Hockey	Open Gym



Halloween



Grade Eight & Nine and Grade Four & Five Classrooms

Year PLQN

Hi, my name is Celina, I teach the grades 8 and 9. It is wonderful to be back at Sally Ross School. I anticipate a good year with the students, in regards to their learning. I have numerous things planned for them and the rest of the high school, like loom beading, drama, and choir. I would like to teach them how to make mossbags and cradle boards from cardboard.

Parents, caregivers, and guardians, please feel free to come and visit our class anytime, or phone me if you have any questions.

Hello ! Fr: grade four & five – Vocabulary
Development using the letters from
"REMEMBRANCE DAY"

Men red Mary Dance
BRENDA Emma Ben Dance red
remember and me
can an mad ran
nancy Brad Bay Bed
my bad
bee maybe dam brace
ace bender
Dan am
amber are day member mana
mean
dab

UNDERSTANDING FACEBOOK

by Ken MacDougall

High School Mathematics / Science Teacher
Sally Ross School

If you have a home computer and an InterNet connection, or a cellular phone and access to any WIFI outlet, then you and every member of your family who has access to these devices probably also has a Facebook account.

You've probably never even thought about the "why" of you having this account; you just do – because, if you're like the majority of individuals who live on my wife's reserve, you simply "need it" –to keep in contact with friends and family living on other reserves, to find out what's happening on this reserve, to "keep informed" on any decisions being made by Chief and Council (just in case you or someone else in the family might decide to run for office the next time around), to share your own life events, or to comment upon those occurrences happening to others – especially those parties last night to which you weren't invited, and kept you up all night with their noise and merriment...and, of course, to play Candy Crush...

That's "your" reason for having the account; now, what about the account that your children have set up for themselves?

Most users have a really "weird" notion as to the nature of their Facebook account, whether through access to information and privacy, or defining so-called "free speech" and the exchange of such information with persons whom you have deigned to be "Friends" of yours, and with whom you might wish to share your views and feelings. Despite what Facebook developers might try and tell us, personal accounts are set up to "share" your personal information with as many people as possible; so are initially pre-set to "Public". This is the feature that makes advertising on Facebook attractive. So, if you "join" a group, subscribe to an online newspaper, or even decide to start playing Candy Crush at three in the morning with the rest of your friends, a full list of your friends and your own personal information are transferred to the web servers hosting that group, newspaper or online gaming site. This then allows that web site to sell this information to third party advertisers, who in turn use such lists to "prospect" for clientele needing their goods or services.

Unfortunately, most parents aren't aware of this aspect of the Facebook "sharing" features, or don't really care as to the possibility of such events occurring; unfortunately, for younger users, this easy access to personal information spells potential danger to exploitation and abuse, as anyone – **and I DO mean "anyone"** – is free to read their postings online – and to use them in any conceivable fashion, legal or otherwise, in order to achieve some questionable purpose. Thus, if your children register for an account and post a picture of themselves with that registration, anyone seeing their name in another friend's post can simply click under the picture or name, and Facebook immediately directs that person to their personal page – where a list of friends and photos, some of which might be intimate in nature, are available for viewing by online voyeurs and trolls.

Everyone likes to believe that they are immune from the potential harm online freaks may bring to their lives, but young users are the individuals most likely to fall victim to such activities. We regularly read of young teenage girls being lured into surreptitiously meeting older sexual predators, often with grave consequences, or even of so-called "friends" taking copies of pictures depicting harmless events, and using Photo-Shop to modify these same snapshots into hideous and tormenting renditions of the

same event, or even to use simple “cut and paste” techniques to transpose these same individuals onto lewd or compromising materials that appear to be “real” to unsuspecting viewers – including parents. As well, Facebook seems to convey a false sense of freedom to the young, where they now begin to believe that they are “allowed” to write what they choose, and how they feel, often using, to paraphrase Simon and Garfunkel, “words I’ve never heard in the Bible” to describe their own inner torments or to cyber-bully others with whom they have disagreement or grievance.

IF your children have a Facebook account, you can start to protect them by, first, insuring that you’re on their “Friends” list, and categorized as either family members or “Close Friend”. In that way, you will have access to almost everything they post. That, of course, is just a first step. Regularly review with your children their “Friends” list, and particularly question the inclusion of individuals that you don’t know, or look a little “odd” (e.g.: seems way older than your child, has problems with drugs/alcohol, bullies others, etc.). Don’t be afraid to challenge them on their granting access to certain individuals, and have them “Unfriend” anyone with whom you have doubts as to character and integrity.

Finally - and this is probably the most important aspect of safeguarding your children when they’re using this program - occasionally click on the “Chat” button and scan the Inbox discussions with their closest friends at school, and in particular those that might have been undertaken in the past few days. This is particularly important for parents of teenage girls, as they have more of a tendency to share their “secrets” with friends, and are more vulnerable to emotional confrontation and abuse online than boys.

As well, IF your child signs offline and you observe significant mood swings, particularly in expressions of anger or sadness, put your own Candy Crush addiction on hold for a moment, and strike up a conversation, if possible, or even offer to prepare a treat for the child – and talk. Most teens are reluctant to “share” emotions with parents, principally because they think that they’re “old enough” to handle crises on their own, or may not trust their own parents due to some previous altercation or witnessing how other parents have reacted under similar circumstances.

Trust is something that often takes a lifetime for adolescents to build up. Mark Twain, the author of Huckleberry Finn, once wrote, “At age fourteen, I was appalled at the ignorance of my old man; at twenty-one, I was amazed at how much he’d learned in the last seven years.” However, in Indigenous communities, culture and custom dictate that we are all responsible for the education and well-being of our young. Therefore, our immediate concern must be to protect them from the stress and pratfalls that strain their lives, and make them more susceptible to violence, drug or alcohol abuse or some mental stress that ultimately lends itself to potential human tragedy.

It is one thing to feel grief and sorrow for the actions of our young. It’s even harder, however, to see a tragedy unfold, only to later ask yourself if there wasn’t something that you personally could have done, whether through an act of interventionist parenting or in utilizing the protectionist instincts of a concerned community member, that could have prevented that event from happening in the first place – because, at that point, your personal score on Candy Crush or your desire to find out who’s running for Chief and Council just became slightly “irrelevant”...